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August 7, 2000



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**BOX PATENT APPLICATION**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Re: Application of Patrick HUMBERT, Pierre, RIPOCHE, Joel LANDI,  
and Jacques GOUDEAU  
APPARATUS FOR SUPPORTING A PREFORM, AN INSTALLATION FOR  
MANUFACTURING OR BUILDING UP A PREFORM AND PROVIDED  
WITH SUCH APPARATUS, METHODS IMPLEMENTED IN SUCH AN  
INSTALLATION, AND A PREFORM MADE USING SUCH METHODS  
Our Ref: Q60128

Dear Sir:

This is a request for a Continuation Application of pending prior Application No. 08/555,178 filed November 8, 1995 of Patrick HUMBERT, Pierre RIPOCHE, Joel LANDI, and Jacques GOUDEAU entitled APPARATUS FOR SUPPORTING A PREFORM, AN INSTALLATION FOR MANUFACTURING OR BUILDING UP A PREFORM AND PROVIDED WITH SUCH APPARATUS, METHODS IMPLEMENTED IN SUCH AN INSTALLATION, AND A PREFORM MADE USING SUCH METHODS.

This application is being filed under 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(b). Enclosed is a specification, including the claims, 3 sheets of formal drawings, and a copy of the Declaration as filed in the prior application. Also enclosed is a copy of the Assignment, an Information Disclosure Statement, and a PTO Form 1449 listing references cited by applicants and/or the examiner during prosecution of the parent application.

The prior application is assigned to Group Art Unit 1731.

Amend the specification by inserting before the first line the sentence:

--This is a continuation of Application No. 08/555,178 filed November 8, 1995, the disclosure of which is incorporated herein by reference.--

Priority is claimed from November 08, 1994 based on FR Application No. 94 13 378. The priority document was filed in parent Application No. 08/555,178.

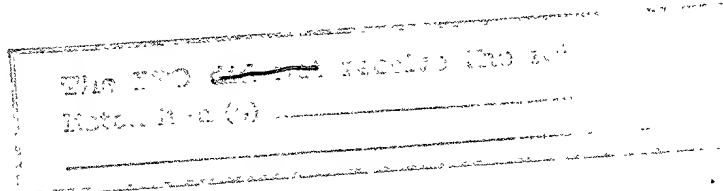
A Preliminary Amendment is being submitted herewith.

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Adjustment date: 10/27/2000  
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Assistant Commissioner for Patents

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The Government filing fee is calculated as follows:

Total claims	4 - 20	=	0	x	\$18.00	=	\$0.00
Independent claims	1 - 3	=	0	x	\$78.00	=	\$0.00
Base Fee							\$690.00

<b>TOTAL FILING FEE</b>							<b>\$690.00</b>
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A check for the statutory fee of \$690.00 is attached. You are also directed and authorized to charge or credit any difference or overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17 and any petitions for extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 which may be required during the entire pendency of the application to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. A duplicate copy of this transmittal letter is attached.

A Petition and payment for an extension of time is being filed concurrently herewith in Application No. 08/555,178. The application is timely filed.

Respectfully submitted,  
SUGHRUE, MION, ZINN,  
MACPEAK & SEAS, PLLC  
Attorneys for Applicant

By: Ray Heflin  
Ray Heflin  
Registration No. 41,060

**PATENT APPLICATION**  
**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re application of

HUMBERT, PATRICK, et al.

Continuation Application of  
U.S. Appln. No.: 08/555,178



Group Art Unit: Unknown

Filed: August 7, 2000

Examiner: Unknown

For: APPARATUS FOR SUPPORTING A PREFORM, AN INSTALLATION FOR  
MANUFACTURING OR BUILDING UP A PREFORM AND PROVIDED WITH  
SUCH APPARATUS, METHODS IMPLEMENTED IN SUCH AN  
INSTALLATION, AND A PREFORM MADE USING SUCH METHODS

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

**Please cancel claims 1-10 without prejudice or disclaimer, and add new claims 11-14  
as follows:**

--11. An installation in which an apparatus supports a preform, comprising:  
a preform having a supporting core;  
a rotation mechanism that rotates said supporting core about a longitudinal axis;  
an adjustable support member; and  
a rotatable wheel mounted on said adjustable support member,  
wherein said rotatable wheel (1) has a rotational axis which is parallel to said supporting  
core, (2) is mounted to rotate freely, and (3) includes a tread strip which comes into tangential  
contact with said preform.

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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT  
CONTINUATION APPLICATION OF  
U.S. APPLICATION NO. 08/555,178

12. The installation according to claim 11, wherein said adjustable support member is adjustable between a variable active end position in which said rotatable wheel is in contact with said preform, and an inactive end position in which said rotatable wheel is spaced apart from said preform, and said installation further comprises:

a sensor that measures a preform characteristic indicative of a sag of said preform; and

a servo-controller coupled to said sensor, said servo-controller adjusting said adjustable support member depending on said preform characteristic measured by said sensor.

13. The installation according to claim 12, further comprising a plurality of rotatable wheels having respective associated adjustable support members, said plurality of rotatable wheels being disposed at regular axial intervals and radially to said longitudinal axis.

14. The installation according to claim 12, wherein when said adjustable support member assumes said variable active end position, said rotatable wheel is in contact with a bottom of a periphery of said preform.--

**REMARKS**

Entry and consideration of this Amendment is respectfully requested.

Applicants note that claims 11-14 respectively correspond to claims 3, 2, 5, and 6 from Parent Application No. 08/551,178 with a couple of notable changes. The preambles of the claims have been changed to define an "installation" (as opposed to an "apparatus" in an installation). Also, with respect to claim 11, Applicants have positively recited the preform and

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT  
CONTINUATION APPLICATION OF  
U.S. APPLICATION NO. 08/555,178

the rotation mechanism in the body of the claim (rather than reciting these elements in the preamble, as set forth in claim 3 of Parent Application No. 08/551,178).


Applicants note that the changes to the claims are intended to prevent the Examiner from characterizing the preform and rotation mechanism as an intended use. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully assert that the pending claims are patentable for all of the reasons noted in the Amendment filed on June 19, 2000.

In view of the foregoing, the claims are now believed to be in form for allowance, and such action is hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, he is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Applicants hereby petition for any extension of time which may be required to maintain the pendency of this case, and any required fee, except for the Issue Fee, for such extension is to be charged to Deposit Account No. 19-4880.

Respectfully submitted,

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Ray Heflin  
Registration No. 41,060

Date: August 7, 2000